



Dear Citizens,

Today I celebrated my 100th day as Mayor of Baltimore City. The speech I gave to city employees and the media is included in this edition of the Dixon Report.

Friends and colleagues, thank you for being here this morning on the 100-day mark as we take a moment to look at what we have accomplished and the progress we have made toward our goal of a Cleaner, Greener, Safer and healthier Baltimore.

Throughout my 20 years as an elected official in Baltimore, I have been impressed by the dedicated public servants at all levels of city government.

The last 100 days have confirmed once again the skill and commitment of city employees.

Everyone has embraced the goals we have laid out for Baltimore, and I am very pleased with the progress we've made in a relatively short time.

I want to thank all of you for your hard work.

When I took the oath of office 100 days ago, I made a commitment to the people of Baltimore that I would dedicate my time, my energy and the talents of many good people to making Baltimore a cleaner city, a safer city, a city committed to the health of its citizens, and a city where the promise of opportunity would be open for everyone.

We have made progress on all those fronts, and laid the groundwork for success in the future.

Cleaner and Greener

I am very serious about cleaning up the City and creating more urban green space.

Is it difficult to control litter? Yes, but it can and is being done.

We have launched the Cleaner Baltimore Initiative and put key people in place to manage recycling, trash collection and litter.

I have instructed city agencies to lead the way, to keep the area around their buildings cleaner and set an example.

We've already seen an increase in the amount of recycling collected and with a little reorganization, City street sweepers are already covering more ground every day.

A cleaner city is better for residents and more inviting to visitors.

We have just started, but there is a difference and we will continue to improve.

Safer

As a life-long resident of Baltimore, I have seen the difficult days for our police officers and communities, and I have worked hard to address safety concerns throughout my career.

In the past few years, we have made our city safer, but there is no doubt that we still have work to do.

We are all aware of the challenges, now is the time to start talking about – and implementing – solutions.

Since February, I have spoken with community leaders, young people, faith leaders, educators and public safety professionals. We all want the same thing, and we are moving forward together.

It is essential that young people and adults have the resources they need to learn, to find jobs, to get help with housing – all the things that can keep a person away from crime in the first place.

I have asked all the departments in city government to focus their energy in communities where it is needed the most, and provide comprehensive support to people who need help.

We have to focus on the most violent criminals, and repeat offenders, and we are.

We have some great partnerships with the U.S. Attorney and state agencies that will help us get the most dangerous criminals off the street.

We have begun to restore trust between our police officers and the communities they serve, and much of the relationship building is being done by the officers on the street.

We have made 2500 fewer arrests this year compared to the same time period last year, and we have seen a 41 percent drop in excessive force complaints and a 29 percent drop in discourtesy complaints.

Stronger cooperation between communities and police will make our communities safer.

Healthier

One of the things I am most proud of is the Smoking Ban, and the fact that Baltimore taking action helped push through a statewide ban. It is better for our city, and sends the right message to our citizens.

Under Dr. Sharfstein's leadership, Baltimore City is working to cut heart disease, diabetes, addiction, and the other preventable, treatable illnesses that affect too many Baltimore residents.

I am proud of the work we are doing, and I am confident we are building a healthier, and more productive city.

Securing Our Economic Future

Making our city healthier, safer and cleaner requires that Baltimoreans have opportunity, and that our city continues to grow economically.

The City can't always create jobs directly, but we can create an environment where businesses flourish and grow, and working families can count on secure jobs.

After years of stalled development and threats of litigation, this administration brokered a compromise on the Superblock that will move the Westside redevelopment forward.

I've shared with you some – but certainly not all – of what we have accomplished together in a short 100 days. We all have reason to be proud, but we cannot rest on our laurels.

I am impressed by what government has been able to do in 100 days. We have done more than many people expected and so we have raised the stakes for the next 100 days, and the 100 days after that.

Our citizens should expect more, and we should take those expectations as a compliment. As Mayor, I am committed to rising to the challenges ahead, and frankly I expect you all to do the same.

Together, we can continue to make Baltimore a stronger city, and years from now, we will look back on these first 100 days as the start of something truly remarkable.

Thank you.

As always, I am interested in what you think about our plan to make our city a dynamic place to LIVE, EARN, PLAY and LEARN. Please [email me](#) your comments or suggestions.

Sincerely,

Sheila Dixon
Mayor
Baltimore

Volunteers Needed for 90th Annual Flowermart

"It truly is a microcosm of wonders."

Are you interested in volunteering at this year's Flowermart?

This fabulous two-day event will be celebrating its 90th year this year. We need volunteers to assist with a wide variety of tasks. If you have a particular interest in neighborhood cleaning and greening, it would be great to have you there.

Please go to <http://www.flowermart.org/volunteers.html> for more information.

Want to Quit Smoking?

Call for Free Nicotine Patches and Gum

Free nicotine patches and gum are available for people who want to quit smoking. If you are a Baltimore City resident and at least 18 years old, you may be eligible.

Call 1-800-QUIT-NOW.

Patches will not be available after June 30th, so call now!

Please visit the [Baltimore City Health Department](#) for more information.

Activities for the Whole Family

Special Events All Around Baltimore

The Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks offers activities for city residents and guests - educational hikes and walks, sports leagues, youth and senior activities, and fun for the family.

Please visit [Rec & Parks' Events Calendar](#) for dates and times.



TV25: How Baltimore sees itself

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